

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Add the following paragraph to the specification, at page 13, line 7:

Figure 4 is a flow diagram depicting steps of a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Add the following paragraphs to the specification, at page 18, line 14:

Fig. 4 is a flow diagram further illustrating steps of an embodiment of the invention. Function block 402 indicates that a broker such as broker 32 is provided with first and second publication point data processing nodes, each node being dedicated to a particular prespecified topic and each being an entry point data processing node of the broker. A specific publication point data processing node is then selected, to publish a data message on the particular topic, as indicated by function block 404. Function block 404 further teaches that the particular topic is sent to the broker from a publisher application.

In accordance with decision block 406 of Fig. 4, it is necessary to determine whether or not data message transformation will be needed. If such determination is positive, the first publication point data processing node will be selected, as shown by function block 408, and the data message will then be transformed, as shown by function block 410. Thereafter, the broker carries out data processing operations corresponding to a series of data processing nodes unique to the first node, as indicated by function block 412. Finally, in accordance with function block 414, a communication is made with the broker via the first publication point data processing node, to publish the data message on the particular topic to subscriber applications that previously registered a subscription request to the particular topic.

Referring further to Fig. 4, function block 416 shows that if data message transformation is not needed, the second publication point data processing node will be selected. Steps indicated by function blocks 418 and 420 will then be sequentially carried out. The steps of function blocks 418 and 420 correspond to those of function blocks 412 and 414, respectively, except that function blocks 418 and 420 pertain to the second rather than the first publication point data processing node.